

>Mr. Thomas Tidwell

Chief USDA Forest Service

EMC – Administrative Reviews

1400 Independence Ave S W

Mailstop 1104

Washington, D C 20250-1104

Read with great interest the revised forest plan for the SNF that came in at the last moment. Having attended a meeting and commented during the regular public input deadlines on the options, I was very surprised to see that the OHV lobbyist had prevailed in getting a substantial amount of prime back country and wildlife habitat reclassified for consideration for OHV use. (Alternative G regarding the Wood River and Francs Peak road less area) For those of you that have not been there, there is already use of OHV's on the peripheral of this unique road less area. The area that currently encompasses the road less area is prime wildlife summer and winter range, both for native and endangered species. In addition, it offers hiking and horseback recreational qualities that will be lost forever if OHV's are allowed. OHV's alongside hikers and equine enthusiast are recreational forms that do not coexist. Having hunted many times from the road in the area where OHV's are currently allowed, it is very plain to see that the irresponsible OHV's users have no regard for road closed or area off limits to OHV's. I can sympathize with the group as a whole when they say claim a "few bad apples" create the problem. On the other hand, if vehicle traffic is allowed in the area, it will only be a short time before make shift trails and one off roads are all over the area. This is a fact that can be substantiated by looking at other areas that allow OHV use.

I am asking you to reconsider expanding any OHV use in the Wood River and Francs Peak area of the SNF in Wyoming. Much like peeling an onion, once you do so, you cannot undo that decision. In our ever expanding population of mankind, it is good to know that an area exist that allows one to escape into a more peaceful environment, to return to nature as it was intended to be. Even when the day comes that I can no longer ride my mules or hike back into these areas, it will still be refreshing to know that they are still there. Look at our current concrete jungles that we have created, and then look at how few areas of intact road less back country we have left.

For the benefit of our future generations, please do not accept the proposal to expand OHV use in this area, therefore, reinstate alternative plan B which limits any expansion of roads or motorized use in the before mentioned area.

Rick Adair 18 Elk Road Wapiti, WY 82450

